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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 October 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in South Vietnam, Laos, Somali Republic, Iraq, and Pakistan

1. South Vietnam

Viet Cong military activity last week declined from the previous week's high point for the year, but attacks were still at a relatively high level. Six were in company strength, making the number of larger-scale actions during September (two battalion-size and 17 company-size) the greatest for any month since June 1962. The intensified rate of activity sustained by the Viet Cong during the past six weeks probably will continue during the dry season which is now beginning.

The Viet Cong conducted only minor harassing activity against the National Assembly elections held on 27 September. The government continues to appear in control of the situation despite signs that political restiveness persists among urban elements.

2. Laos

Communist forces have now apparently succeeded in reopening Route 7, their main supply route into the Plaine des Jarres area from North Vietnam, and reports suggest that they are preparing for further attacks in Xieng Khouang Province. There are also indications that the Pathet Lao may be planning stepped-up military activity in the Vang Vieng area north of Vientiane and in south central Laos.

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3. Somali Republic

Fighting between dissident Somali tribesmen and Ethiopian authorities in the Ogaden has slackened recently, and Addis Ababa has begun to return some military units to their home stations. The Ogaden disorders as well as Mogadiscio's failure to make any progress toward unification of the Somalis in Kenya have brought home to the Somali Government leaders the weakness of their diplomatic and military positions. As a result Mogadiscio is seeking heavy arms from the USSR and an optimistic high-powered military mission under General Daud is now in Moscow.

Mogadiscio may approach Communist China, if, as expected, current negotiations in Moscow result only in token aid or light military equipment.

4. Iraq

The situation in northern Iraq remains essentially one of stalemate. The army has pushed to Shirwan Mazin on the Turkish border and within sight of Turkish border posts, but now finds that this "victory" has not ended Kurdish resistance, as it had hoped. The government appears now to recognize that operations in the north cannot be concluded before the advent of the autumn rains, which will preclude further large-scale fighting. It has begun to prepare winter bivouac camps in the mountainous areas in which it has been operating.

The winter months are likely to be a period of attrition punctuated by raids and counter raids, with the fighting resuming on a large scale in the spring.

5. Pakistan

Insurgent activity in Pakistan is still limited to chronic minor incidents. Kabul radio reports increasing unrest in the Pushtoon tribal area of Pakistan, near the Afghan border. Tribesmen have allegedly attacked a military camp in Bajaur, north of Peshawar; a soldier and two policemen were reportedly killed, and a military road was "destroyed." Tribal firings on frontier police posts have been more or less endemic. These incidents are usually magnified by Afghan propagandists demanding self-determination for their fellow Pushtoos living on the Pakistani side of the line.